

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC/ASEAN JOINT STUDY GROUP

REF: (A) STATE 5072, (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS 12293, (C) 76 EC

BRUSSELS A-456, (D) 75 EC BRUSSELS A-467

1. SUMMARY: REF. A REQUESTED CURRENT STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY PROJECTS DISCUSSED AT FIRST EC/ASEAN JOINT STUDY GROUP (JSG). ASEAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS TELL US LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THESE PROJECTS. THEY HAVE GIVEN US A COPY OF INTERNAL ASEAN REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THESE PROJECTS. WE ARE SENDING A COPY OF THIS REPORT BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. OF THE FIVE PROJECTS AGREED TO BE CARRIED OUT OVER THE 18 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE 1975 JSG MEETING, ONLY ONE HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED: A STUDY OF THE ECONOMICS OF JOINT BULK SHIPMENT FROM ASEAN TO EC COUNTRIES. ASEAN WITHDREW TWO PROJECTS:

1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF AUTOMATION AND REMOTE MONITORING CONTROL OF LIGHTHOUSES; AND 2) A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A COCONUT COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN THE ASEAN REGION. THE EC HAS TAKEN NO ACTION ON THE OTHER

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TWO PROJECTS: 1) A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AN ASEAN REGIONAL FERTILIZER AND PESTIDE PLANT; AND 2) A SURVEY ON HOW TO IMPROVE FACILITIES IN SELECTED ASEAN PORTS. THE EC CONSIDERS THE SCOPE OF THESE STUDIES TO BE TOO BROAD. IN ADDITION, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS MAY HAVE UNDERTAKEN THESE PROJECTS. THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS ARE NOW CONSIDERING HOW FERTILIZER PROJECTS MIGHT BE

UNDERTAKEN ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO THE FIRST JSG MEETING, ASEAN HAS SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY PROPOSALS: 1) FISH AND SHRIMP FARMING IN LAND SETTLEMENT COOPERATIVES; 2) POST HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE OF CASSAVA; 3) PULP AND PAPER PROJECT IN NORTH SUMATRA; 4) PROTEIN PROJECTS; 5) MOBILE UNITS FOR DEVELOPING CATTLE PRODUCTION IN RURAL AREAS; 6) PIG BREEDING PROMOTION CENTERS IN AREAS OF HIRE-PURCHASE LAND AND LAND TENANTS COOPERATIVES; AND 7) AFTER HARVEST GRAIN HANDLING AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY. ASEAN OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT THESE PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS ARE QUITE SKETCHY, BUT THEY CURRENTLY HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION TO PROVIDE. THE EC HAS NOT YET AGREED TO SUPPORT ANY OF THESE PROJECTS.

4. THE EC/ASEAN JOINT SECRETARIAT IS ALSO EXAMINING AN ASEAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT SCHEME TO STUDY THE TYPE OF FISHING VESSELS BEST SUITED FOR ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE SCHEME MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF SURPLUS FISHING VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT. HINTON

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